

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 01882 260907Z

17

ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2879

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1882

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: MUJIB'S HEALTH

REF: DACCA 1841

1. THERE HAS BEEN AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF SPECULATION HERE ABOUT MUJIB'S HEALTH DURING AND SINCE HIS EMERGENCY DEPARTURE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN MOSCOW. JUDGING FROM NEWBERRY'S AND MY OBSERVATIONS OF HIM DURING OUR MEETING WITH HIM WEDNESDAY AND FROM WHAT UK HIGH COMMISSIONER GOLDS TELLS ME ABOUT HIS OWN CONVERSATION WITH MUJIB LAST WEEK ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS HEALTH, THERE SEEMS NO REASON TO LOOK BEHIND OFFICIAL VERSION THAT MUJIB HAS MADE A GOOD RECOVERY FROM WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A SEVERE BOUT OF BRONCHITIS.

2. GOLDS TOLD ME, AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH MUJIB, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN TREATED IN MOSCOW FOR ACUTE BRONCHITIS SUPERIMPOSED ON HIS CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND COMPLICATED BY A CASE OF SUPPRESSED PNEUMONIA. MUJIB EVIDENTLY COMPLAINED OF WHAT NINE DAYS OF INJECTIONS IN MOSCOW HAD DONE TO HIS BACKSIDE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN ORDERED TO REST EACH AFTERNOON, TO GENERALLY CURTAIL HIS SCHEDULE, AND TO BEGIN TO LET SOME OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES DEVOLVE ON OTHERS. GOLDS SAID PM WAS IN
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PAGE 02 DACCA 01882 260907Z

GOOD SHAPE IF STILL A LITTLE WEAK.

3. GOLDS ADDED THAT WHEN MUJIB HAD HAD HIS GALL BLADDER OPERATION IN LONDON IN JULY 1972, BRITISH DOCTORS HAD GIVEN HIM THOROUGH EXAMINATION AND FOUND HIM IN GOOD HEALTH EXCEPT FOR LESS THAN EXCELLENT CONDITION OF HIS LUNGS. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF CANCER.

4. ALL THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH NEWBERRY'S AND MY FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS WEDNESDAY OF AN UNUSUALLY VIGOROUS MAN WITH NO EVIDENT SIGNS OF ANY AFTER-EFFECTS OF ILLNESS.
BOSTER

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